

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BURGESS HILL.REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Burgess Hill Urban District Council.



I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1940.

The Minister of Health has requested that interim reports only should be submitted for the year 1940, and should be confined to essential matters which have affected the public health during the year. This procedure has, therefore, been adopted. The delay in sending out this Report is due to the late receipt of the statistics from the Registrar General.

The Crude Death Rate is 13.68 and this figure when adjusted gives a Corrected Death Rate of 11.08 as compared with 10.96 for the previous year and with 14.3 for England and Wales. The Infantile Mortality Rate is 85.5 which is higher than for the country as a whole.

No deaths occurred from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles or Whooping Cough.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

In my Annual Report for 1939 I reported that 90 per cent of the child population, one to 15 years of age, had been immunised. During the year 1940 every effort was made to induce parents who had not accepted immunisation for their children to agree to the procedure, and, 358 children were immunised under the Council's scheme.

Parents have the choice of taking their children to their own doctor or they can be immunised by Dr. Duke, Assistant Medical Officer, at the Schools or at specially arranged Clinics. Every parent on the child's first birthday receives a letter from myself pointing out how necessary it is for every child to be immunised and this is followed up by a visit from the District Nurse.

In certain cases where the parent still refuses, visits are paid by Dr. Duke or myself and it has been found that this procedure gives good results. Where the parent has difficulty in attending the Clinic the inoculations are carried out in the homes.

Parents who have not accepted are advised by myself at school medical inspections and many parents accept when approached in this way.

At the end of the year the percentage immunised was approximately the same as in the previous year. The prophylactic used was T.A.F. and reactions following the injections were rare. A Schick test is carried out by Dr. Duke on all children three to six months after the final injection and it was found that 98 per cent of the children were Schick negative. Children found to be Schick positive are given a further course of injections.

With regard to children evacuated to this district, every parent received a letter from myself with an acceptance form attached and at the end of the year approximately 64 per cent of these children were immunised by Dr. Duke. During the present year arrangements have been made for the parents residing in the area, who have not accepted, to be visited and those living in London to be visited by a representative of the London County Council.

During the year 1940 not a single child, local or evacuated, developed Diphtheria.

CHILDREN EVACUATED TO THE DISTRICT.

Children suffering from extensive impetigo, scabies or other conditions making it undesirable for them to remain in their billets are admitted to an Evacuation Hospital situated at Burgess Hill, and which serves the needs of this District and also of the Cuckfield Urban District and of the Cuckfield Rural District.

There are 32 beds at this Hospital and at times all have been occupied. The nursing staff comprises a Matron, two probationers for day duty and one for night duty, all paid according to Civil Nursing Reserve rates, and in addition there are a number of voluntary helpers from the British Red Cross Society. The visiting Physician is Dr. W.H.R. McCarter.

Children are only admitted on the recommendation of a general practitioner, the final decision as to the desirability of admitting particular cases resting with your Medical Officer of Health.

The total number of children admitted during the year was 275 and the following were the various complaints for which the children were admitted:-

Scabies	...	...	...	123
Impetigo	...	...	...	32
Other skin diseases	...			37
Convalescent following				
operation	...	...		17
Otorrhoea	...	...	...	13
Enuresis, observation for				10
Bronchitis	..	...	...	6
Other minor illnesses	...			37

In addition to the above, 208 children were treated as out-patients for various skin diseases which did not necessitate their admission to Hospital.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration, support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. B. Stolt

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of Statistics for the Year, 1940.

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	...	...	2,024
Population estimated to middle of year	...	...	...	...	...	8,261
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£59,170.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£233.0.0.
Density of Population (persons per acre)	..	...	...	...	...	4.08
Number of Houses	..	...	...	...	...	2,250
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	13.80
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	13.68
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	85.5

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BURGESS HILL URBAN DISTRICT.

<u>Cause of Death</u>						<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	..	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	-	1
8.	Syphilitic disease.	...	...	...	...	1	-
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	-
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	.	...	...	...	-	-
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis	.	...	...	...	-	-
13.	Cancer of b.cav and oesoph. (male) uterus(female)					1	-
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	...	...	...	...	1	-
15.	Cancer of breast	..	...	...	...	-	5
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	3	5
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	-	2
18.	Intra-cran. vasc. lesions	...	...	...	...	3	7
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	12	18
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system.	...	...	...	...	-	2
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	3
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	4
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	..	...	...	...	2	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	.	...	...	...	-	1
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	-	1
27.	Other digestive diseases.	...	...	...	...	1	4
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	-	2
29.	Puerperal and post.labor. sepsis	...	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	2	2
32.	Con.mal birth inj. infant. dis.	...	...	...	...	3	-
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	-	-
34.	Road traffic accident	...	...	...	...	-	-
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	2	2
36.	All other causes	..	...	...	...	3	7
Totals						<u>45</u>	<u>68</u>

BIRTH RATE, CIVILIAN DEATH RATE AND ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the Year 1940 (Provisional Figures)

	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.									Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (Under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	14.6	0.55	14.3	0.00	-	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.06	0.32	-	4.6	55
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	16.0	0.64	15.8	0.00	-	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.29	-	5.9	61
146 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	15.7	0.55	12.8	0.00	-	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.30	-	4.4	54
London ...	13.7	0.44	17.8	0.00	-	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.18	-	5.8	50
Burgess Hill Urban District	13.80	0.36	13.68 *11.08	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.48	8.55	85.5

* Corrected Death Rate.

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales are as follows:- per 1,000 Total Births

	Puerperal Sepsis	Others	Total
The Maternal Mortality Rates for the Burgess Hill Urban District are as follows	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

SEWERAGE - FOLDERS LANE.

Many complaints received of nuisances from overflowing cesspools.

Occupiers experienced difficulty in remedying these nuisances.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

During the year 181 visits were made to dairies and 134 to cowsheds and 29 samples of milk were taken for a bacterial count.

Meat.

During the year 86 animals were inspected and 361 visits were made to butchers shops and slaughterhouses. The total weight of meat condemned was 193 pounds.

Other foods.

During the year 192 lbs of butter was surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

SWIMMING POOL.

This is kept under constant supervision in order to ensure that the water is fit for bathing.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disease	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	6	6	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	-
Typhoid Fever	1	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Pneumonia	10	-	-
Measles	190	12	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over	Totals
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	6
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	2	2	3	10
Measles	1	14	7	10	21	92	28	8	5	3	1	-	190
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Totals	1	14	8	12	21	98	29	8	7	5	5	3	211

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1940.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	3	1	3	-	-	-	1

